

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

Daniels announces plan to collect more overdue child support

October 19, 2008 – Governor Mitch Daniels has announced a new effort to increase collections of overdue child support by suspending hunting, fishing, and driver's licenses of those who refuse to pay.

"We've increased child support collection a lot in the past four years, but more than four of every ten dollars still goes unpaid. Our goal is not to suspend licenses but to let welchers know Indiana is serious about them doing their duty to their children," said Daniels, who was joined by several county prosecutors as well as officials from the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC).

Eight counties will participate in the initial phase of the program, which will target the most extreme cases, non-custodial parents (NCPs) who have not made a child support payment for at least one year and who owe more than \$25,000 in arrearages. An initial warning letter will be mailed this week in Allen, Kosciusko, Lake, Marion, Monroe, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, and Vanderburgh counties. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) and the corresponding county prosecutors estimate there are about 4,000 delinquent child support cases in these counties that meet these criteria.

The program is a partnership among IPAC, DCS, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Family and Social Services Administration.

The prosecutor's office in each county will administer the process, which will consist of three notifications sent to delinquent non-custodial parents demanding that he or she contact the prosecutor's office to set up a payment plan or pay the existing arrearage in full. If there is no response after 60 days, suspension proceedings will begin on the individual's hunting, fishing, and/or driver's license until a payment plan is established.

"Our goal is not to suspend licenses and inconvenience Hoosiers, but rather to make sure that our fellow citizens follow the laws of this state and be responsible for their families," said Pat Harrington, prosecutor of Tippecanoe County.

The governor said the project will eventually be rolled out to all counties and that the qualifying threshold will be lowered to an arrearage of \$2,000 and a three-month minimum of nonpayment in accordance with Indiana Code. DCS estimates there are more than 76,000 cases above this threshold representing more than \$1.3 billion of unpaid child support.

Collections of child support payments have increased in recent years. DCS estimates that to date in 2008, more than \$580 million in current and overdue child support payments have been collected in the most recent reporting period, an increase of \$45 million from 2007 and the largest one-year increase in state history.

"Every single percent means 7 million more going straight to a home with children who really need it," said Daniels.



Listen to audio from the announcement [here](#).

October 17, 2008- Governor Daniels visited with Department of Natural Resources employees outside the maintenance facility at Pokagon State Park in northeast Indiana.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Daniels receives national recognition

October 10, 2008- The Manhattan Institute's Center for Civic Innovation (CCI) honored Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels with its Urban Innovator Award at a luncheon held in Indianapolis.

The Urban Innovator Award is presented annually to "an urban leader who has improved the quality of life in their city." Recent honorees have included former Governor of Florida Jeb Bush for his state's comprehensive and influential education reform program and Washington, DC mayor Antony Williams, for his support for school choice and for improving city administration in the District

The news release issued by the Manhattan Institute is here:
<http://www.in.gov/gov/files/Press/ManhattanInstitute.pdf>

In addition, the independent magazine *Governing* announced that Governor Mitch Daniels has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2008 Public Officials of the Year award for achievement in government service. Among the state's successes under Daniels' leadership highlighted by *Governing* are infrastructure improvements, landmark health care legislation, and improved government efficiency.

Every year since 1994, the publication has honored individual state and local government officials for outstanding accomplishment by naming them Public Officials of the Year. The magazine names one governor each year. Previous winners have included Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Governor Zell Miller of Georgia and Governor John Engler of Michigan.

The news release issued by *Governing* is available here:
http://www.governing.com/download/poy08_pr.pdf.

Global moving company to relocate its national headquarters to Fort Wayne

Oct. 17, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from global moving and relocation giant SIRVA, Inc. to announce the company's plans to centralize its national headquarters for moving services in Fort Wayne, creating 240 new jobs by 2011.

The global moving company, which operates Allied Van Lines and northAmerican Van Lines, will invest more than \$16 million to centralize its Illinois-based national moving services operations to its existing 288,000-square-foot regional business support center on Fort Wayne's northwest side.

"SIRVA's decision to centralize its operations here means hundreds of jobs, but it's also a vote of confidence in our state's competitive business environment and in the more than 450 Hoosiers already working for the company in Fort Wayne," said Daniels.

SIRVA currently will begin hiring business staff in 2009 following the completion of initial improvements to the Indiana facility.



October 10, 2008— Governor Daniels' 2008 Charity Motorcycle Ride ride raised more than \$7,500 for the National Guard Relief Fund which provides grants for the families of Hoosier members of the Indiana National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves who have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001.

OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Governor Daniels' statement about Honda Manufacturing of Indiana's production of the first Civic built at its new Greensburg plant:

"The first Civic built in Greensburg becomes a landmark vehicle in Indiana's proud automotive history. Thousands of great jobs and a new surge of opportunity throughout southeast Indiana begin today."

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? [Click here](#) for more!

State assistance program funded for winter heating season

October 5, 2008- Indiana has a record amount of funding for winter heating assistance and should be able to meet the winter fuel needs of low-income Hoosiers, despite recent increases in the costs of energy, Governor Mitch Daniels said today.

The governor said the state will have a record \$106 million available through Indiana's share of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). That's more than double the amount of funding that the state received for last winter's heating season. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) is accepting applications and appointments for the program through local community action agencies beginning today.

"We've never been more prepared to help Hoosiers, and we're starting earlier than ever because we expect it to be a difficult year for winter energy costs," said Daniels.

Last week, the federal government took action to increase the amount of funds provided to states to help families cope with rising energy costs, and Indiana's share more than doubled, to \$103.7 million. In addition, the state has \$2.5 million remaining in a contingency fund from last year.

The EAP funds help individuals and families with incomes up to 150 percent of the poverty level with winter heating bills. Daniels increased the level of eligibility from 125 percent of the poverty level to 150 percent of the poverty level three years ago.

For example, a family of four making less than \$31,800 would qualify, as well as an individual with an income of \$15,600 or less. The benefit amount is paid in a lump sum directly to the applicant's utility company.

Last winter, the state allocated nearly \$71 million in federal heating assistance (\$51.8 million basic grant, \$13.1 million contingency and \$6 million Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) to help more than 159,000 Hoosier households, an increase of 15,000 from the previous year. In winter 2003-04, 126,000 households were served, and the average assistance was \$275 per household.

The average household benefit last winter was \$320; that amount is expected to increase this year, depending on the number of people who apply for assistance.

Experts predict that energy costs could increase as much as 30 percent this winter, driven by higher prices for both oil and natural gas. However, the large increase in federal funds provided to Indiana should ensure that the state can help even more eligible families with their heating needs this winter.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, which oversees EAP, has required community action agencies to utilize interactive voicemail software to handle large call volumes, to accept mail-in renewals beginning in July and to allow households to schedule appointments as well as take applications on a walk-in basis. Community Action Agencies meet individually with applicants in each of the 92 counties to determine eligibility.

"We encourage those who are concerned about paying their winter heating bills to call or visit their local Community Action Agency, or to call the Indiana Housing Authority's toll-free number for more information," said Sherry Seiwert, executive director of IHCDA. That number is 1-800-872-0371.

More information about the Energy Assistance Program may be found at this link:
<http://www.in.gov/ihcda/2523.htm>.



October 10, 2008- Governor Daniels visits with a young Hoosier at the Harley-Davidson in Bloomington. The governor rode through town on a two-day charity motorcycle ride through several counties in southern Indiana.

Check out the latest performance report [here](#).
 View past reports [here](#).

Materials company to expand its northeast Indiana operations

Oct. 17, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from materials handling equipment maker Vestil Manufacturing Corporation to announce the company's plans to expand its operations in Angola, creating up to 50 new jobs by 2011.

The company, which manufactures and distributes more than 5,000 materials handling products ranging from work station cranes to stretch wrap machines, will invest \$2 million to expand its manufacturing operations into a former recreational vehicle and automotive parts manufacturing facility adjacent to one of its current Angola manufacturing operations.

"Hard work and perseverance are essential in business, and there is no better example of that than here in northeast Indiana. From Ralph Trine and the people of Vestil to the staff at SIRVA, northeast Indiana is showing today that despite a challenging national economy businesses are growing and hard working Hoosiers will soon be the benefactor of that growth," said Daniels.



October 15, 2008- Governor Daniels celebrated the opening of Really Cool Foods in Cambridge City. The company built a \$24 million production and distribution center and relocated its headquarters to the Wayne County facility.

Pharmaceutical manufacturer to expand its Seymour operations

Oct. 13, 2008- Schwarz Pharma Manufacturing, Inc and its wholly-owned subsidiary Kremers Urban, LLC announced its plans to expand its manufacturing operations in Seymour, creating 150 new jobs by 2011.

The drug maker will invest more than \$12 million to upgrade the manufacturing, information technology systems, and logistics equipment at its 280,000-square-foot pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution center located in the southern Indiana city 65 miles south of Indianapolis.

"Recruiting and retaining jobs in high growth industries such as the life sciences becomes increasingly important in a challenging national economy. New investments by companies like Schwarz Pharma Manufacturing and Kremers Urban, LLC means new opportunities and new jobs for Hoosiers and more economic diversity and growth for southern Indiana," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

Wind turbine gear maker picks Muncie for North American Headquarters

Oct. 8, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from international gear maker Brevini to announce the company's plans to locate its U.S. headquarters and first North American gear design and manufacturing center in Muncie, creating more than 450 new jobs by 2011. The facility will serve as a hub for developing and manufacturing wind turbine planetary gear boxes used in wind farms across the country.

The company specializes in designing and manufacturing the gear drive applications for a variety of heavy equipment, utility, mining and marine applications and will locate its North American headquarters and design center in an existing 60,000-square-foot facility in the Muncie Delaware County Park One Industrial Park.

Brevini will construct an additional 150,000 square-feet of manufacturing space at the site in 2010 to manufacture planetary gear boxes for wind turbine energy generation and other low-speed, high-torque applications. It is the company's first U.S.-based manufacturing operation.

"Indiana intends to be a green power leader, not only in producing energy but in making the equipment that produces energy, including wind turbines, electric car batteries and other tools of this energy revolution," said Daniels. "Brevini could have chosen to locate anywhere in the country but selected Indiana and that's a reflection of our leadership in alternative energy and our excellent business climate."

This week the governor will travel to Evansville, Hammond, Fort Wayne, Lafayette and Gary.